Verzasca Valley
One of the most idyllic secluded spots in Switzerland

Swiss railway stations
All aboard – the journey begins

Laser cut
Perfect precision every time

Launch of new definitive stamps
Swiss railway stations

3/2016

Focus on stamps

The Collector's Magazine

SWISS POST

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Credit card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date (month/year) ☐☐☐☐

Date/Signature: _____

Dear Reader

The last six months have been eventful and exciting, filled with many wonderful encounters and occasions.

Our March issue marked numerous anniversaries, while the colourful stamps issued in May featured historical, sporting, geographical, animal and ecological themes.

We also have fond memories of our readers' trip to Lake Constance and the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel – the construction project of the century.

And now we have an autumnal bouquet for you – rendered with perfect precision. Using special advanced laser technology, pictures are formed precisely where there is no backing material, i.e. where holes have been burned.

Ticino is not only the sunniest region of Switzerland. With its luscious green countryside and rushing river, the Verzasca Valley is simply enchanting. Could anyone ever tire of hiking among these marvellous history-steeped hills?

Switzerland is proud of its neutrality, its standing in Europe and the world. But it has also witnessed dark chapters in its history.

Up until 25 years ago, compulsory social measures and forced fostering blighted the lives of many people. The physical and psychological harm that was done is immeasurable. This dark chapter is currently the focus of academic and political inquiry.

Our new "Swiss railway stations" definitive stamp series launches with four stations of architectural note. These architectural gems represent Valais, Central Switzerland, Ticino and French-speaking Switzerland. We are already looking forward to discovering where the journey will take us over the next three years.

"Have a good flight", we say, when someone is flying off on holiday. So what could be more appropriate to convey our good wishes for this year's 50th Aerophilately Days. We offer our congratulations, hope for good weather and many flown items for our aerophilatelists!

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the new catalogues are now available. Choose your favourite on page 18.

And now, dear reader, it only remains for me to wish you a very enjoyable read!

Kind regards

Carina Ammon
Head of Product Management
Stamps & Philately

HELVETIA
100 +50
Fürsorgerische Zwangsmassnahmen und Fremdplatzierungen
Mesures de coercition à des fins d'assistance et placements extrafamiliaux
Misure coercitive a scopo assistenziale e collocamenti extrafamiliari

Brig railway station is the first in the new definitive stamp series with a postage value of 85 centimes. Photo: Rolf Steinegger

Contents

Review of readers' trip to Lake Constance 4

Review of Gottardo 2016 opening ceremony 5

Laser cutting 6–7

Typical Swiss countryside – Verzasca Valley 8–9

Compulsory social measures and forced fostering 10–11

Swiss railway stations 12–15

50th Aerophilately Days 16–17

Other products 18–19

Cover page: Ponte dei Salti. Photo: Urs Schüpbach

Grey and wet – **green and fun-filled**

Photos: Bernhard Kallen

Weather-wise, Thursday 19 May of this year was anything but pleasant, with rain showers sweeping across the whole of Switzerland.

But our guests transformed a grey, wet and miserable day into a memorable outing. Although it rained during the crossing to the island of Mainau, we got to know each other over well-earned coffee and croissants. Then we almost managed to stay dry during a fascinating guided tour around the fabulous island of flowers. Not many were in bloom yet, but we did get to see countless shades of green.

Then more rain for the boat trip to the pier at Romanshorn, but this proved to be the culinary highlight of this day. So, despite the weather, our heroic and friendly group kept the sunshine in our hearts shining the whole day long. It was lovely to see you all – thank you!

Swiss Post's General Terms and Conditions of Business concerning the purchase of stamps and philatelic items form an integral part of individual orders and are tacitly accepted by each customer who sends an order.

These Terms and Conditions can be ordered by telephone (+41 [0]848 66 55 44) or by e-mail (stamps@post.ch). They are also available at swisspost.ch/gtc-phila.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Papier aus verantwortungsvollen Quellen FSC® C005019

Publisher's details

"Focus on stamps" is a free magazine published in English, German, French and Italian.

Published by
Post CH Ltd
Post Offices & Sales
Stamps & Philately
Wankdorfallee 4
3030 Berne
Switzerland

Total print run
100,000 copies

Customer service
- Telephone: +41 (0)848 66 55 44
- Fax: +41 (0)58 667 62 68
- E-mail: stamps@post.ch
- Website: swisspost.ch/focusonstamps
- Shop: postshop.ch

"Focus on stamps" No. 3/2016
Copy deadline: 17.6.2016
Distribution: from 29.7.2016
Stamp issues: 8.9.2016

Definitely no tunnel vision

It was deep in the heart of Switzerland at the beginning of June that we celebrated the opening of what can only be described as the construction project of the century.
Some 80,000 visitors came to the north and/or south portal of the Gotthard Base Tunnel over the opening weekend. Swiss Post had a large stand at both the event venues in Rynächt and Pollegio. At the integrated special post offices, Stamps & Philately was able to supply stamp fans from all over the world with commemorative souvenirs and sought-after philatelic items. Everyone who was there is sure to have happy memories of this historic occasion for years to come.
Many thanks to all the staff for their superb efforts on behalf of our wonderful stamp-shaped cultural asset representing a "slice of Switzerland".

Photos: SBB

Don't forget:

The next major event to which Swiss Post will be bringing a stand and a special post office is the Swiss Wrestling Festival in Estavayer.
So put the weekend of 26 to 28 August 2016 in your diaries and double-underline it.
Further information (in German) can be found at: estavayer2016.ch.

Getting **right to the point**

When images are created exactly where the backing paper is missing, then laser technology is at work.

The "OK to print" for laser perforation.

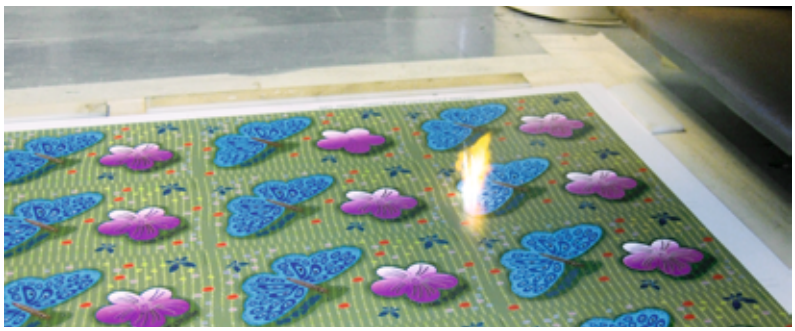
The word "laser" is actually an abbreviation of "light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation" – a phenomenon described by Albert Einstein as early as 1917.

A laser is light that is bundled into a beam and thus intensified. This monochromatic light has a high intensity and a narrow frequency, which enables laser beams to be used very precisely.

Lasers are very versatile and are used today in a wide variety of areas, from correcting visual impairments to the playing of storage media such as CDs and DVDs. They are familiar in industrial settings, too, for instance for cutting a variety of different materials.

Laser beams were also used in the "Laser cut" miniature sheet. The beams were created with a resonator that directed them into the machine's cutting head via a mirror. When the laser beam strikes it, the paper burns, which is why light brown discolourations are sometimes visible on the back of the sheet.

Sebastian Ingold
Product Manager Stamps & Philately



Here you can clearly see the laser burning the paper.
Photo: zVg

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Laser cut

CHF 2.00

Miniature sheet
A104 315 ★
A104 815 ⊙
CHF 2.00

Miniature sheet on first day cover E6
A104 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 3.00*

Unstamped covers

C6 (162×114 mm)
A104 700
CHF 0.90

E6 (200×140 mm)
A104 701
CHF 1.00

Folder/collection sheet
A104 640 ★
A104 650 ⊙ *CHF 2.80*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Sales
Philately: From 1.9.2016 to 30.9.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: Not available

Validity
Unlimited from 8.9.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour, and laser; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Stamps: Special formats, outlines of flower and butterfly
Miniature sheet: 105×70 mm

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13½

Design
Martine Dietrich, Berne

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

In the green heart of Ticino!

The Verzasca Valley still offers a sense of Ticino's past. It lies just a few minutes from the city centre, yet is surrounded by nature.

So it is no surprise that the Verzasca Valley and the rushing river that gave the valley its name (verde acqua = green water) are popular destinations for excursions. The Roman bridge "Ponte dei Salti" crosses the river near Lavertezzo. A stone bridge with two arches, it was originally built during the Middle Ages and was rebuilt in 1960.

The Verzasca valley offers a variety of opportunities for bathing, including river pools in Lavertezzo and Brione Verzasca. The most popular spots for diving are the "Pozzo della Misura" and the "Pozzo dei Salti".

Elena Caretti
Ascona-Locarno Tourism

Hiking tip: the "Sentierone" through the Verzasca Valley

The "Sentierone" is one of Switzerland's most fascinating hiking trails and is an old mule track. It follows the Verzasca river for around 8.5 hours, and is flat and easy to walk along. The hike can be interrupted any time between its starting point in Mergoscia and the end of the trail in Sonogno: many bridges traverse the river, enabling hikers to reach the main road and thus the Postbus.

Information:
ascona-locarno.com
0848 091 091
info@ascona-locarno.com

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Verzasca Valley

CHF 2.00

Miniature sheet
A106 315 ★
A106 815 ⊙
CHF 2.00

Miniature sheet on first day cover E6
A106 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 3.00*

Unstamped covers

C6 (162×114 mm)
A106 700
CHF 0.90

E6 (200×140 mm)
A106 701
CHF 1.00

Folder/collection sheet
A106 640 ★
A106 650 ⊙ *CHF 2.80*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Sales
Philately: From 1.9.2016 to 30.9.2017, while stocks last
Post offices in Locarno region: From 8.9.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 8.9.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Stamp: 40×50 mm
Miniature sheet: 105×70 mm

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13¼:14

Design
Photography: Urs Schüpbach, Berne
Graphics editing: Kaspar Eigensatz, Berne

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Photos: Urs Schüpbach

A dark chapter
in Swiss history

HELVETIA
100 +50
Fürsorgerische Zwangsmassnahmen und Fremdplatzierungen
Mesures de coercition à des fins d'assistance et placements extrafamiliaux
Misure coercitive a scopo assistenziale e collocamenti extrafamiliari

What's done cannot be undone. But one can learn lessons for the future.

"Das Schlimmste waren nicht die Schläge und der Hunger. Das Schlimmste war, dass ich als Mensch, als Person, gar nicht wahrgenommen wurde." Alfred Ryter

Compulsory social measures and forced fostering prior to 1981 are a dark chapter in Swiss social history. Many children and adolescents suffered and were unjustly treated during this time; their physical, psychological and sexual integrity and their mental development were, in part, severely impaired, and many of them still suffer from the consequences of their experiences.

The story of these victims is now the subject of political and academic inquiry, and the public is becoming aware of the injustice done to many of the institutionalized, fostered, or indentured children. A decisive contribution is being made by a variety of commemorative and other events, exhibitions, films, and reports from victims as well as by a public initiative and a roundtable initiated by Swiss Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga.

The Swiss Parliament is presently examining draft legislation with a counterproposal to the reparations initiative. In the process, the aim is not to undo what has been done, but to express solidarity with the victims and learn lessons from the past.

Luzius Mader
Federal Office of Justice

"Prima che partorissi, mi hanno sbattuta in una clinica psichiatrica perché volevano farmi abortire. Lì avrebbero provveduto anche a sterilizzarmi."
Maria-Magdalena Ischer

"Le directeur d'orphelinat était très dur, sans pitié, et nous battait, nous privait de repas." Clément Wieilly

Current information from politics and academia can be found on the website of the delegate for the victims of compulsory social measures and forced fostering prior to 1981: **fszm.ch**

All additional income from these special stamps with surcharge will be channelled into the emergency aid funds for the victims of compulsory social measures and forced fostering prior to 1981. This emergency aid consists of single voluntary contributions to the victims who find themselves in difficult financial circumstances today.

Compulsory social measures and forced fostering

CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50)

Single stamp
A107 150 ★
A107 550 ⊙
CHF 1.50

Block of four
A107 160 ★
A107 560 ⊙
CHF 6.00

Sheet of 12 stamps
A107 111 ★
A107 511 ⊙
CHF 18.00

Unstamped covers

C6 (162×114 mm)
A107 700
CHF 0.90

E6 (200×140 mm)
A107 701
CHF 1.00

Single stamp on first day cover C6
A107 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 2.40*

Block of four on first day cover E6
A107 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 7.00*

Folder/collection sheet
A107 640 ★
A107 650 ⊙ *CHF 2.30*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Sales
Philately: From 1.9.2016 to 30.9.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 8.9.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 8.9.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamp: 40×43.5 mm
Sheetlet: 150×204 mm (4 rows of 3 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 220 gm²

Perforation
13:13¼

Design
Beat Kehrli, Meiringen (BE)

Fürsorgerische Zwangsmassnahmen und Fremdplatzierungen
Mesures de coercition à des fins d'assistance et placements extrafamiliaux
Misure coercitive a scopo assistenziale e collocamenti extrafamiliari

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Railway journey with **archite**

They've arrived: The new series of definitive stamps on the topic of Swiss railway stations is starting with the four common values. All our definitive stamps will be replaced by the end of 2018. In future, we will no longer have different topics

Brig

This station, built in 1908, lies between the Simplon Tunnel and the Lötschberg-Scheitel Tunnel on the international transit routes Geneva-Lausanne-Milan and Basel-Berne-Milan. Brig is an important border station and transfer point (e. g. to the Matterhorn Gotthard railway), even though the opening of the Lötschberg Base Tunnel in 2007 shifted part of the traffic to Visp. The station building is a protected historical monument and a familiar landmark in Brig, and was extensively restored between 2006 and 2009.

Lucerne

Open since 1991, this modern terminal station, whose lobby faces Lake Lucerne, was built in place of the historical station building that burned down in 1971. The complex comprises various new buildings which frame the surviving historical railway platform building from 1896. Lucerne Railway Station is an important transport hub in Switzerland. Historical elements such as the mural by Maurice Barraud on the western facade were integrated in the new structure.

ctural points of interest

for small, common and large values. Instead, the topic of Swiss railway stations will feature on the entire series, so we're on track – literally – to bring you buildings from many railway companies in Switzerland.

Bellinzona

This prominently positioned railway station was built in 1876 as part of what were then the "Ticinese Valley Railways", and expanded around the turn of the century to include a service building. The station will be carefully and extensively renovated in 2016 in conjunction with the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel. The project that won the architectural competition envisions a southern extension incorporating elements of the historical service building and, at the same time, making the station more customer-friendly.

Geneva

Today's imposing station was built to replace a 19th-century building that burned down. The present building bears the stamp of Julien Flegenheimer, the architect who designed the UN headquarters in Geneva. The station is a significant stopping point for traffic between Switzerland and France, especially for the Berne-Lausanne-Lyon and Milan-Simplon-Lausanne-Lyon routes. Both an overall renovation and the interior restructuring of the historical building were concluded in September 2014.

Special post office

14 and 15 October 2016 mark the official opening of the expanded railway station in Bellinzona following its refurbishment, and a special post office will be in operation on Saturday, 15 October 2016.

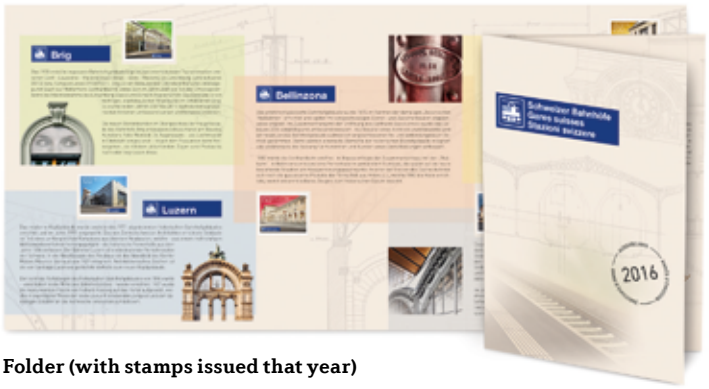
See postshop.ch/focusonstamps and Philanews 10/16 (in German) for further information.

Folder and binder for collecting the set
Create your own handsome collection of the new definitive stamp series

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the definitive stamp series will now have just a single theme. Consequently 15 stamps featuring "Swiss railway stations" will be issued over the next three years. So we are starting on a journey through Switzerland.
The stamps will feature pictures of small, medium-sized and large buildings run by various railway companies.

A must-have for your collection!
Product Management at Stamps & Philately has developed a very special product for you.
Every year, issue 4 will include a folder with the stamps issued that year along with interesting background information.
To complement the three-part series, a high-quality binder to hold the set will be available.

Interested?
Return the coupon below straight away to be entered in a prize draw for starter sets and other great prizes:
1st to 10th prize: A binder complete with the first folder (2016 issue)
11th to 20th prize: The first folder issue (2016 issue)
21st to 30th prize: A "Swiss railway stations" stamp booklet with ten CHF 1.00 stamps



Folder (with stamps issued that year)

Binder (for all three annual issues)

Competition coupon

Competition question: What is the oldest railway station in Switzerland? ☐ Basel ☐ Baden ☐ Zurich

Customer number (if known)	
Last name	
First name	
Address	
Postcode/Town	
Country	
E-mail address	

Conditions

The deadline for entries is **26 August 2016** (date of postmark). Only the winners will be notified in person. The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Employees of Post Offices & Sales at Swiss Post and their families are not eligible to enter. Only one coupon may be submitted per person.

Send the coupon (or a copy) to:
Post CH Ltd, Post Offices & Sales, Retail Logistics,
Ostermundigenstrasse 91, 3030 Berne

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Swiss railway stations

CHF 0.85 Brig • **CHF 1.00** Lucerne • **CHF 1.50** Bellinzona • **CHF 2.00** Geneva

Set
A109 150 ★
A109 550 ⊙
CHF 5.35

Set of blocks of four
A109 160 ★
A109 560 ⊙
CHF 21.40

Sheet of 50 stamps

0.85 Brig
A109 361 ★
A109 381 ⊙
CHF 42.50

1.00 Lucerne
A109 362 ★
A109 382 ⊙
CHF 50.00

Sheet of 10 stamps

1.50 Bellinzona
A109 363 ★
A109 383 ⊙
CHF 15.00

2.00 Geneva
A109 364 ★
A109 384 ⊙
CHF 20.00

Unstamped cover C6
A109 700
CHF 0.90

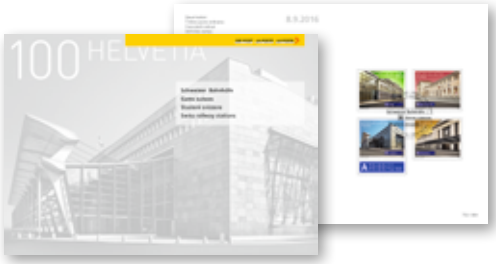
Set on first day cover C6
A109 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 6.25*

Single stamp on first day cover C6
(4 covers)
A109 600 ⊙ *only* *CHF 8.95*

Block of four on first day cover C6
(4 covers)
A109 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 25.00*

Stamp booklet
0.85 Brig
A109 300 ★
A109 800 ⊙
CHF 8.50

Stamp booklet
1.00 Lucerne
A109 301 ★
A109 801 ⊙
CHF 10.00



Folder/collection sheet
A109 640 ★
A109 650 ⊙ *CHF 6.15*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Sales
Philately: From 1.9.2016 until further notice
Post offices: From 8.9.2016 until further notice

Validity
Unlimited from 8.9.2016

Printing
Offset, 6-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
CHF 0.85 Brig:
Stamp: 33×28 mm; business sheet: 180×380 mm open, 180×95 mm folded (10 rows of 5 stamps);
stamp booklet: 183×62 mm open

CHF 1.00 Lucerne:
Stamp: 33×38 mm (incl. vignette); business sheet: 180×500 mm open, 180×125 mm folded (10 rows of 5 stamps);
stamp booklet: 183×84 mm open
CHF 1.50 Bellinzona and CHF 2.00 Geneva:
Stamp: 33×28 mm; business sheet: 82×198 mm open, 83×66 mm folded (5 rows of 2 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 220 gm²

Perforation
Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design
Marc Weller, Berne

Schweizer Bahnhöfe
Gares suisses
Stazioni svizzere

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Flying high
for an important birthday

Congratulations on your 50th birthday, and keep flying high!

The term "aerophilately" comes from the two words "aero" (aviation) and "philately". Philately comprises collecting stamps and other indicia as well as research on stamps, letters and postmarks. Aerophilatelic post is always transported by air, whether by an airplane, Zeppelin, balloon or a helicopter. One area of philatelic interest is the collection of covers, such as letters. On older items especially, thanks to the cancellations (departure, transit, arrival), the route and delivery time can be determined. Today's modern technology even allows us to glean additional information, such as the aircraft, pilot or route. Historical, geographical, political and flight-related background information enhances what are often extensive collections and sets them in a historical context. Valuable individual items from a collection can be seen at philatelic exhibitions.

Heinz Berger
President of Swiss Aerophilatelic Society (SAV)

Anniversary combi-folder CHF 6.50

Special post office

The 50th Aerophilately Days will take place from 7 to 18 October 2016 at the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne.

A special post office will be open on both weekends:
Friday–Sunday, 7–9 Oct. and
Saturday/Sunday, 15–16 Oct. 2016.

Further information can be found at postshop.ch/focusonstamps, and (in German) in Philanews 09/16 and at sav-aerophilatelie.ch.

Special cancellation

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

50th Aerophilately Days

CHF 1.00

Single stamp
A108 150 ★
A108 550 ⊙
CHF 1.00

Block of four
A108 160 ★
A108 560 ⊙
CHF 4.00

Sheetlet of 6 stamps
A108 311 ★
A108 351 ⊙
CHF 6.00

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Single stamp on first day cover C6
A108 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 1.90*

Block of four on first day cover C6
A108 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 4.90*

Sheetlet on first day cover C5
A108 591 ⊙ *only* *CHF 7.20*

Unstamped covers/ sheetlet

C6 (162×114 mm)
A108 700
CHF 0.90

C5 (229×162 mm)
A108 701
CHF 1.20

Folder/collection sheet
A108 640 ★
A108 650 ⊙ *CHF 1.80*

Maximum card
Maximum card A6, with the special stamp "50th Aerophilately Days" of CHF 1.00 (plus CHF 1.00 for the card). Cancelled with the first day cancellation.
A108 851 ⊙ *only* *CHF 2.00*

Picture postcard
(The motif on the maximum card is also available without a cancelled stamp affixed.)
Picture postcard A6 without stamp
A108 911 ★ only
CHF 1.00

The picture postcard is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Combi-folder
The multilingual combi-folder (German/French/Italian/English) contains the special stamps for the "50th Aerophilately Days" (CHF 1.00) and "50 years of international airmail"(CHF 2.00), cancelled with the first day or local cancellation respectively.
A108 900 ⊙ *only* *CHF 6.50*

The combi-folder is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Sales
Philately: From 1.9.2016 to 30.9.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 8.9.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 8.9.2016

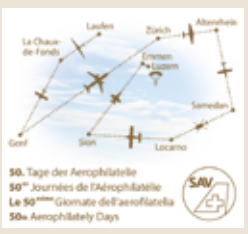
Printing
Offset, 4-colour, Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein

Sizes
Stamp: 40×32.5 mm
Sheetlet: 192×115 mm (2 rows of 3 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13½

Design
Fredy Trümpi, T&P Design, Binz (AG)



First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Now available!

As well as consuming energy and other valuable resources, transporting mail also produces carbon dioxide emissions. It is therefore incumbent on businesses in the logistics industry to improve efficiency.

As announced in Focus on stamps 2/16, the multilateral product featuring "Ecology in Europe" is now available. The postal administrations of Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland have issued a total of six special stamps on this topic.
The folder containing the stamps from these four countries includes interesting information about the various postal administrations' commitment to sustainability.

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All 24 first day covers (FDC) of the year – with the respective single stamps, sets or miniature sheets and cancelled with the corresponding first day cancellations – can be ordered as a set, which is also available as part of a standing order.
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2015 year book of Swiss stamps
As a valuable record of our times, with each stamp inserted by hand, the year book presents the 52 original stamps of the last year, along with all the first day cancellations and an exclusive black print on 100 pages in four languages (English/German/French/Italian).
A058 830 ★
A058 831 ⊙ *CHF 66.00*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

2017 stamp catalogues

Zumstein Switzerland/ Liechtenstein/ UN Geneva
German/French
A113 725
CHF 35.00

Swiss Stamp Dealers Assoc. Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva
German/French
A113 787
CHF 37.00

The stamp catalogues are only available in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

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